



Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā al-Bukhārī

(1328-1426H/1910-2005 CE)

By *Shaykh `Abdul Rahmān Hajjar*

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The devout and saintly scholar Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zakariyā al-Marghaylānī al-Bukhārī al-Madanī al-Naqshbandī was born in Marghaylān in the land of Bukhārā in 1910 (1328 H). His mother was a righteous woman and his grandfather was a pious man who perpetually observed fasting - only avoiding fasting on the days it was not permitted. His grandfather passed away after Hajj in Medina and is buried in al-Baqīʿ.

As a young boy before travelling to Medina Shaykh Muhammad had a dream wherein he saw three graves in al-Baqīʿ. One was his grandfather's, the other was his mother's and the third was his. When the Shaykh arrived in Madinah he was afflicted with severe fever and his mother made *du`a* asking Allah to afflict her instead of her son. His mother took ill and after three days she passed away on the night of the 15 Sha`bān 1956 (1375H) having reached 70 years of age. She was buried in al-Baqīʿ in close proximity to the illustrious Ummahāt al-Mu`minīn.

Shaykh Muhammad began his education as a young boy in his village in Bukhārā under the scholars of the area. He took the Naqshbandī Order from Shaykh Iskandar Effendī in Bukhārā. When the Russians entered the land they imprisoned many of his teachers so he was forced to flee secretly. The escape from the Russians was a dangerous and life threatening one but he eventually arrived in Medina.

Some of his [Shaykh Muhammad's] teachers were:

- *Shaykh Ibrahim al-Khutānī (d. 1389H/1969)*
- *Shaykh `Alawī Abbās al-Mālikī (d. 1391H/1971)*
- *Shaykh Muhammad Hasan Mashāt (d. 1399H/1979)*
- *Shaykh Hasan Shā`ir (d. 1400H/1980)*
- *Shaykh `Umar Bārī*
- *Shaykh Diyā`uddīn al-Bukhārī*
- *Shaykh Muhammad Abdul Bāqīʿ al-Laknāwī*
- *Shaykh Ahmad `Abdul Dā`im*

- *Shaykh Abūl Khayr al-Maydanī (d. 1380=1960)*
- *Shaykh Ibrahim al-Ghalāynī (d. 1377H/1957)*
- *Shaykh Hāmid Mirza*

His companions from amongst the `Ulemā included:

- *Shaykh Abdul Azzīz Uyūn al-Sud (d. 1398H/1978)*
- *Shaykh Muhammad al-Mukbtār al-Indjānī (d. 1402H/1982)*
- *Shaykh Mullā Ramadān al-Būtī (d. 1410H/1990)*
- *Shaykh Muhammad al-Junayd al-Ka`kī al-Himsī (d. 1412H/1991)*
- *Shaykh `Abdul Fattāh Abū Ghudda (d. 1417H/1997).*

The Shaykh used to make it a point of visiting Shaykh Zakariyā whenever he visited Madinah. Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā even had a gathering at his home where he accepted condolences on the day when Shaykh `Abdul Fattāh passed away.

- Shaykh `Abdullāh Sirājuddīn (d. 1422H/2001).

The two shared an excellent and cordial relationship. Shaykh Abdullah used to send him his books from Aleppo and Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā used to reciprocate this with gifts from Madinah. When Shaykh `Abdullāh passed away, there was a large gathering at Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā's home where the Qur'ān was recited.

- *Shaykh Hasan al-Mosūlī*
- *Shaykh Muhammad al-Hajjar (d. 1428H/2007)*
- *Shaykh Mahmūd Effendī al-Istanbūlī al-Naqshbandī*
- *Shaykh Wasfī al-Masaddī*
- *Shaykh `Abdul Ghaffār al-Darūbī*
- *Shaykh Muhammad Iwād al-Dimashqī*
- *Shaykh `Umar Mulla Hafjī*
- *Shaykh Muhammad Abūl Fadl Anwāma*
- *Shaykh Hāmid Gharīb al-Halabī*
- *Shaykh `Adil `Azzām al-Madanī*
- *Shaykh Al-Habib Umar al-Jiffri*
- *Shaykh Ibrahim Khalīfa al-Ihsā'i*

There were many more scholars who used to visit him at his home at his home near the Al-Majidi Door of the Prophet's Mosque where he lived for forty years.

There were a number of people who spent a long time in his company, serving him and benefiting from his company. Some of them were:

- *Shaykh `Abdul Hafīz Bablāq (d. 1424H/2003)*
- *Shaykh Fayṣal al-Darūbī*

- *Shaykh Hasan Rasam al-Turkī*
- *Shaykh Mabr `Alī al-Kurdī*
- *Shaykh Isma`il Zā`im al-Hamāwī*
- *Shaykh `Alī al-Ihsā`i*
- *Shaykh Abdul Bāsīt `Abdul Hakīm al-Dimashqī*
- *Shaykh Abūl Farāj al-Salāhī*
- *Shaykh `Abdul Abad Qārī*
- *Shaykh Sāmī Abū `Arif*
- *Abu Ridwān al-Abmar*
- *Muhammad Madanī*
- *Shaykh Hasan Dabbāgh al-Hamāwī*
- *Anas Bunnī*
- *Amīn Bashīr Kirmān*
- *In`amuddīn al-Afghānī*
- *Abdul-Rahmān al-Afghānī*
- *`Abdul Fattāh ibn Muhammad Iwād*
- *`Abdullāh and Muhammad Dīyā the sons of Shaykh `Umar Mullā Hafjī*
- *Muhammad, Ahmad, `Abdullāh and Muhiyiddīn the sons of Shaykh Muhammad Awwāma.*

His home and his habits

[Shaykh Muhammad's] home was a place of peace and tranquility. A visitor to his home never left without tasting some of his delicious food. Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā used to sleep immediately after Ishā' and he would not receive anyone thereafter. He never spent the whole night awake but rather he awoke after midnight whereupon he would perform 12 *rakāts* and thereafter engage in *dhikr* and *du`a* until before the *adhān*. He would travel by car to the Harām and on the way he used to offer greetings and seek forgiveness for the people buried in al-Baqī'. He performed *fajr* and then remained engaged in *dhikr* until sunrise. He was punctual in observing *salāt al-duha* and two *rakāts salāt al-istikhāra*. If [Shaykh Muhammad] was not fasting, he would often invite others to have breakfast with him. On Saturday, he went to the Qūba Mosque to perform two *rakāts* as per the teachings of the Hadith. On Wednesday, after *salāt al-duha*, he invited `Ulemā to have breakfast with him at his home or in one of the gardens of Madinah. Some of the illustrious scholars of Syria attended this function.

They included Shaykh Ahmad Qallāsh, Shaykh Muhammad al-Hajjār, *Shaykh* Muhammad `Alī al-Murād, Shaykh Muhammad Iwād, Shaykh Muhammad Junayd and Shaykh Muhammad Awwāma. On this day Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā also visited the martyrs of Uhud. He loved the martyrs of Badr and visited them from time to time.

[Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyya] regularly observed the Sunnah fast of Monday and Thursday and the middle of the month. He completed the Qur`ān once every week in addition to the various *adhbkar* from *dalā`il al-khayrāt* and *anrād fathīyya*. The Qur`ān used to be completed weekly after *jumu`a* and this occasion was attended by hundreds of people. He performed *salāt al-tasabīh* daily. He commemorated the Mawlid once a year in the month of Rabi` al-

Awwal on a Friday after sunrise. The guests were all invited to have breakfast with him and they were given a Mawlid gift (a prayer rug and some sweets). [Shaykh Muhammad] revered the 15th night of Sha`bān and he would perform 100 *rakāts* on this night reciting Sūrat al-Ikhlās 10 times in every *raka*. He then read Sūrat Yāsīn thrice. He only left Medina to perform the obligatory Hajj and to visit to Syria in 1951H (1370).

Once someone performed *salāt* with him and the visitor noticed the prayer mat the Shaykh used. The person said to himself that when he left he would ask the servant about it. When the visitor left, he found the servant waiting with the prayer rug which was given to the visitor by the Shaykh.

He granted Ijāzah for the recitation of *adhkār* to those who requested it from him as he had received it from his Shaykh, Shaykh `Alawī al-Mālikī. He always instructed those in his gatherings to recite some *adhkār* and he maintained the practice of reading from *al-adab al-mufrad*, *al-shamā'il* by al-Tirmidhī and *al-salāt `alāl nabī* by Shaykh `Abdullāh Sirājuddīn. He loved and respected the students of *dīn* and shared valuable advice with them. He often gave them gifts like *`itr*, a *mismāk* and a turban. He warned against imitating the *kuffār*. He enjoyed listening to *nāshids* in praise of the Prophet and was compassionate and loving towards the children. He was loved and respected by all, irrespective of nationality.

Shaykh Muhammad Zakariyā said:

“This is the era of silence and confining oneself to one’s home,
to be content with one’s provisions and to remember Allah the Everlasting.”

[The Shaykh] passed away after he underwent numerous medical treatments and operations at the Mutabbaqanī Hospital in Medina in 2005 (1426). The *ghusl* was performed by Shaykh Mamdūh al-Junayd as per his request and he was buried in al-Baqī' *rahimabullāh*.

